

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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SUPERINTENDENT HORNE PRAISES COURT RESTRAINT

PHOENIX, (May 15, 2006) – State superintendent of schools Tom Horne today expressed appreciation that the trial court in the *Espinoza* matter exercised restraint, and refused to issue a Temporary Restraining Order preventing enforcement of the rules that students pass the AIMS test as a precondition to graduation.

Horne stated: "We live in an era when parental choice is expanded and the traditional public schools face significant competition. I'm working hard to help the public schools compete by raising academic standards. If the plaintiffs had succeeded in persuading the judge to interfere and impose mediocrity on our schools, our traditional public school system would have been doomed."

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